

Education and Training Workgroup (Focus Area G)

Minutes: May 5, 2004, (15th meeting of this group)

State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC, also known as MEMA), Framingham, MA

Facilitators:

Allison Hackbarth, MPH
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Support:

Rachel Heckscher, MPH
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Attendees:

Allison Hackbarth, Barbara Coughlin, Kathy O'Neill, Kathleen Gilmore, Jane Anderson, Betsy Sheehy, Lydia Locke, Lori Caliveri, Diane Gorak, Anne Sheetz, Paula Stamps, Brad Cohen, Mary Taschner, Kathleen McVarish, Graham Campbell, Jon Burstein, Elsie Freeman, Lisa Gurland, Patrick Maloney, Nannette Bailey, Gilbert Nick, Rachel Heckscher

Website:

<http://www.state.ma.us/dph/bioterrorism/advisorygrps/workgroups.htm#education>

Listserv:

The address for the listserv for this workgroup is:
MDPH_EP_EDUCATION@peach.ease.lsoft.com

Next meeting:

July 7, 2004, 1-3pm: **Worcester** Library

Attachment #1:

Partners in Prevention (online course announcement) Flyer

Attachment #2 :

Department of Fire Services upcoming trainings

Attachment #3:

Forensic Epidemiology

Attachment #4:

Agenda for this meeting, listing names of coordinators of all bioterrorism grant Focus Areas

Attachment #5:

TRAIN Learning Management System

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions.

Workgroup members introduced themselves and a participant sign-in sheet was circulated. Lydia Locke and Lori Cavaleri are new members of this workgroup.

2. Discussion of March 30 (2004) Satellite Broadcast on Isolation and Quarantine (I & Q).

Overall, feedback about the broadcast has been very positive. Analysis of the evaluation forms has been contracted to an independent evaluation company. A formal report will be ready at the end of May and distributed to the workgroup. One concern that the broadcast raised was the need to find resources to support compliance with I & Q mandates, e.g., funds for personal protective equipment (PPE). Some attendees mentioned they would have liked to hear more from Dr. Bonnie Henry of Toronto (Health Canada). Some audience members had been unaware of I & Q regulations for chickenpox prior to the broadcast.

3. Upcoming trainings and other educational resources.

- All materials from the March 30 satellite broadcast will soon be posted on the MDPH Web Page. The satellite broadcast will soon be archived on the internet, and video and CD ROM versions of the broadcast will be distributed in May. To date, over 500 requests for the tapes and CDs have been received.
- A new MDPH online training called Partners in Prevention (about infectious disease surveillance and reporting and I & Q) was announced. It is currently in pilot testing and should be ready to launch in June. **(See Attachment #1).**
- **Other ideas for continued education about I & Q and other topics should be brought up to this workgroup or conveyed to Allison Hackbarth.**
- The MDPH School Health Manual is being revised. Chapter 2 (Emergency Planning) and Chapter 8 (Infection Control) need to incorporate I & Q information. Kathleen Gilmore will follow up with Anne Sheetz with a list of websites and other information to include.
- More work needs to be done to provide education about the mental health/psycho-social aspects of quarantine and how to manage quarantine effectively. Dr. DeMaria is interested in inviting Dr. Bonnie Henry to visit Massachusetts to share more about the Toronto experience of mass quarantine during the SARS outbreak in 2003. A brief discussion ensued about the possibility of having a future satellite broadcast focused on psycho-social aspects of I & Q. Pros and cons were mentioned.
- Mary Taschner, MDPH Liaison to the Department of Fire Services, announced 2 upcoming trainings: Incident Command and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Hospitals, and Hazmat Awareness and PPE for Decontamination for EMS professionals, both private and public. All are free. **(See Attachment #2).**
- Forensic Epidemiology training. CDC requires that this training be adapted for Massachusetts and offered to local public health and law enforcement. **(See Attachment #3).**
- Graham Campbell is working on an Integrated Statewide [Emergency Preparedness] Exercise Program, in partnership with the Executive Office of Public Safety. The plan will have 4 phases: Strategic National Stockpile, Risk Management, Municipalities and regions, and HazMat, with a theoretical Phase 5 consisting of a full-scale statewide drill. Trainings will begin within a few months.

4. Updates on other Focus Area Workgroups.

Allison Hackbarth announced that other bioterrorism grant focus area workgroups are actively working towards their mandates. All workgroup minutes are posted online at www.state.ma.us/dph/bioterrorism/advisorygrps/workgroups.htm. The agenda for this meeting (Attachment #4) lists the contact people for the respective Focus Area Workgroups.

Examples of education or training initiatives from other Focus Areas include:

- **Focus Area C (Lab Capacity):** Level A lab training has taken place in 90% of the state's hospitals, and half of these have received training in packaging and shipping of specimens. Cheryl Gauthier has also provided training to 5 HazMat districts about the role and lab capacities of the State Laboratory Institute.
- **Focus Area E (Health Alert Network):** The number of people connected to the Health Alert Network (HAN) and trained is growing. The goal is to train one person in each discipline in each town to use the HAN. Schools may need to be added to the list of roles on the HAN. Focus Area E Coordinator Jim Daniel (Information Technology Senior Manager, MDPH Division of Epidemiology and Immunization) will be notified.
- **Focus Area F (Risk Communication):** Two advanced risk communication trainings are about to be announced: June 10 (Boston) and the following week in Shrewsbury. 250 people took the basic training in 2003.

4. **TRAIN Learning Management System (Attachment #5)**

Steve Fleming announced that TRAIN is up and running. TRAIN is a learning management system that Massachusetts and 25 other states have contracted through an affiliation with the CDC. At the moment few courses are listed but it is ready to be used by course providers and learners alike. All users must register with a login name and password. Workgroup members are encouraged to use TRAIN to announce upcoming trainings and events, whether local, regional, or statewide. One function allows course providers to send messages by e-mail to all who have registered for their course. Learners can track courses in their learning record. Workgroup members are also encouraged to log on and explore the site. Eventually the Health Alert Network and TRAIN will be linked so that only one login will be required. Over time, TRAIN will be rolled out across the state. **Please send any input about TRAIN to Steve Fleming at Stephen.fleming@state.ma.us (or call him at 617-983-6800).**

5. **Needs Assessment.**

The statewide **needs assessment** is nearing completion. The purpose of the needs assessment was to provide information on the current state of local planning with regard to emergencies caused by widespread infectious diseases or pandemics, bioterrorism events, and related disasters. Questions in the survey focused on training, disease surveillance and monitoring, communications equipment and services, risk communications planning, staffing levels, and general awareness of public health roles in disaster response. The data will serve state and local public health and public safety agencies in the development of response plans, and in determining how to apply resources from all levels of government towards strengthening public health capabilities. The results of the MDPH Needs Assessment Survey have been distributed to all cities and towns in Massachusetts. Results have been analyzed both at the individual town level and based on the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Regions created by the Center for Emergency Preparedness at MDPH. Results have been posted for viewing on the Massachusetts Alert Network. **At the next workgroup meeting, a summary of education and training data will be presented.**

6. **Curriculum Development manual.**

The **Curriculum Development manual**, when completed, will be put on the Health Alert Network so that potential course developers can access it on line. Online forms will help course developers determine which competencies their training should address. There are 21 audiences and 28 topics in all. The manual should be completed in the next few months.